

Decision 02-04-049 April 22, 2002

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the  
Commission's Proposed Policies and Programs  
Governing Low-Income Assistance Programs.

Rulemaking 01-08-027  
(August 23, 2001)

**INTERIM OPINION ADOPTING REFRIGERATOR  
GROUNDING STANDARDS AND ERRATA TO THE  
LOW-INCOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS MANUAL**

**Summary**

On January 28, 2002, the Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) Standardization Project Team (project team) submitted errata to the 2002 weatherization installation standards manual prepared at the Commission's direction in Decision (D.) 01-12-020. On February 19, 2002, the project team submitted proposed installation standards for refrigerator outlet grounding, pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 10 of that decision.

The project team consists of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company and the project consultants: Regional Economic Research, Inc. and Richard Heath and Associates. Energy Division assists in coordinating the effort of the project team to develop recommendations for standardizing procedures and policies across the utilities with respect to low-income assistance programs.

No comments were filed in response to the project teams' submittals.

We have reviewed the errata and proposed installation standards for refrigerator outlet grounding, and find them to be reasonable. The errata pages correct a number of minor typographical and other non-substantive errors that should be corrected in the manuals before they can be considered final. The installation standards for refrigerator outlet grounding enable the program to widely accommodate receptacle grounding in support of refrigerator replacements, consistent with the Commission's goals for the program. As noted by the project team, the existing limits on minor home repairs were established prior to the inclusion of outlet grounding in the LIEE program. Therefore, we will exclude those costs from the calculation of minor home repairs during the 2002 program year. After the utilities have installed these devices for some period of time and better understand the costs involved, the project team should consider modifying the current caps on minor home repairs to reflect the cost of providing this additional service.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. The errata pages submitted by the project team correct a number of minor typographical and other non-substantive errors in the weatherization standards manual adopted by the Commission.
2. The installation standards for refrigerator outlet grounding proposed by the project team will enable the program to widely accommodate receptacle grounding in support of refrigerator replacements.

3. The existing limits on minor home repairs were established prior to the inclusion of outlet grounding in the LIEE program.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. The project team's errata to the weatherization installation standards manual and standards for refrigerator outlet grounding are reasonable and should be adopted.

2. The costs of installing refrigerator outlet grounding should be excluded from the calculation of minor home repairs during the 2002 program year.

### **INTERIM ORDER**

#### **IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The errata to the Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) weatherization installation standards manual, submitted by the LIEE Standardization Project on January 28, 2002 are adopted.

2. The installation standards for refrigerator outlet grounding, submitted by the LIEE Standardization Project on February 19, 2002, are adopted.

3. As discussed in this decision, the costs of refrigerator outlet grounding shall not be included in the calculation of minor home repairs during the 2002 program year for the purpose of establishing limits on those expenditures.

This order is effective today.

Dated April 22, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

LORETTA M. LYNCH  
President  
HENRY M. DUQUE  
CARL W. WOOD  
GEOFFREY F. BROWN

R.01-08-027 ALJ/MEG/eap \*

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY  
Commissioners